

Blaxhall Village Newsletter



Summer 2021

A Fete Accompli!



Certain characters who write the headlines and text for the front page of this newsletter have been desperately scratching around for optimistic angles for some time now, but at last we can genuinely announce the real thing! Following a delayed, then cancelled Festival, Blaxhall's calendar of events finally got back underway with the much-loved summer Fete.

Following a wait of some two years the big day attracted the largest crowd in recent memory, and raised a record amount of money for the church, playing field and village hall. For more details and photos, turn to page 5. Also inside, news of a busy time at the Ship as business starts getting back to normal, the long-delayed blessing of those fantastic new church doors, the latest history feature, murky rumours of super-fast broadband arriving, and the astonishing

reappearance of the Blaxhall website, more than a decade after it was misplaced ...



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Church News



There's always something going on at St Peter's and it is always GOOD NEWS!

A bumper crowd at the Alde Valley Classics Day at the Riverside last month allowed us to pay off some of the "Parish Share" owing to the diocese each year for the upkeep of our churches. Hurray! As ever, St Peter's team were active in the kitchen where they provided around 500 teas!

Next was the fete! And what a fete! Details can be found in the E&F, suffice to say that we were very grateful for the third of the proceeds that is allocated to the church.



Running alongside this is the huge contribution of Joy Shaw's lockdown project: a survey of all the flora and fauna in the churchyard! She has managed to document all of it in a user friendly format so that visitors can take a guide around the churchyard and "eco-treasure hunt" to their heart's content! So many thanks to Joy for this labour of love.

Finally, we blessed the doors! Ok, so we should have blessed those magnificent doors last year. But you all know what last year was like, so we blessed them last week. 30 of

us gathered outside the doors and sang hymns and read door-appropriate readings. The service (if you can call it that) embodied all that is good about the church: friends and family having fun! Rev. Rachel evoked an ancient tradition and sprinkled the doors (and the carpenter, oops, sorry Martin!) with Holy Water, using a sprig of rosemary and we all partook of a jolly good tea.....Blaxhall style!

Next will be HARVEST. 3pm this year, followed by a Harvest Supper and preceded by a WILDLIFE WALK in the churchyard. 3rd October!

Told you. There's always something going on at St Peter's!



Parish Council

The Parish Council is very privileged to be the guardians of Blaxhall Common which gives great pleasure to many in the area. One of the most spectacular sights is the blooming of the heather. The last week it has looked beautiful.



Village Hall & Playing Field

At last we had a Fete in the village, held on 14th August. The weather was kind to us and people seemed to be looking forward to getting out and meeting others again after the long lockdown. Queues formed on every stall as folk were eager to enjoy all that was on offer. The show of classic vehicles proved to be of great interest and added to the atmosphere and the children had great fun with Miranda's games and races.

The teas, of course, were extremely popular and the extra marquee at the side of the hall meant people could spread out more and provided space for the superb display of archive photos. Thanks to Shane and his helpers for an excellent production.

The Produce Show attracted some fine specimens from the village and beyond, it's lovely to see the fruits of people's labours. A big thank you to Viv for organising it.

The event turned out to be the best I can remember, with a record profit of £3600 which is divided equally between the Church and the Village Hall & Playing Field, a boost to us both.

I would like to thank all those who helped in any way, it's amazing how much effort goes into producing a small event. Thanks to all those who manned the stalls, erected marquees and a special thanks to Sheila and her crew for the famous Blaxhall Teas which do so much to bring people together.

We would love to have more people involved, it's a great opportunity to bond and strengthen our community. Naomi and I would like to take a back seat next year so we need new blood to invigorate and enhance what is a really pleasurable annual event.

We will, however, put on a Christmas party this year. So save the date Saturday 11th December for eating drinking and dancing. More details in the next newsletter.

The Ship



We write this as the August Bank Holiday draws to a close. Summer or what was a poor imposter draws to a close, we will now take a few moments to reflect and look forward. At The Ship we are edging ever closely to what was pre Covid normality. Firstly, the team and both of us would like to thank all of those that have supported us, through difficult dangerous and uncharted troubles.

So, thank you all.

We also offer a huge thank you to all the staff. Dwayne, Mitch, Paul, Callum, Sidney, Will and Lauren, for ensuring we operated within at least 7 different sets of Co Vid regulations, without falling foul of an ever-shifting set of legislation.

After having refurbished 4 of our 8 chalets late last year, we have embarked on refurbishing the remaining 4.



We have undertaken two new events that we believe are "firsts" for The Ship.

A wedding reception, that we felt immensely proud in being selected to share such a wonderful life changing event. Credit to Mags for her vision dedication and attention to detail in ensuring the day was a huge success.

We also hosted outdoor on 2 occasions, televised football. We are looking forward to televising several forthcoming Rugby matches.

As always, the great tradition of The Ship being famous for its music, is being upheld, with a number of fantastic live music performances having been staged on the outside areas.

Our attentions are already turning to booking next year's music calendar.

Our immediate attention is being focused on providing a variety of evening events during Autumn and Winter, more details to follow shortly.

Our thoughts turn to Christmas and advancing planning for hopefully a busy festive season. Anyone considering holding a Christmas Party, work or family and friends please contact us soon.

Mags Ken and the Team

Who Remembers the 70s?

With time pressing and this newsletter in danger of becoming an autumn edition, I won't be waffling much this time around, but inspired by a conversation I had with a fellow member of the Blaxhall Archive group I've dug out two shots from the 1970s. It's easy to think of 'history' as



being 100 years ago or more, but in reality the last 40 or 50 years have seen some enormous changes in the village, while other aspects have managed to survive the passage of time

relatively unchanged. The shot above harks back to the days when Blaxhall could (and did) field its own football team, which seems pretty unlikely to return any time soon, while the second photo is especially topical, being of the Harvest Festival auction c1970, an annual event which still continues to this day and is due to take place next month. Those eyeing up Frank Reeve's marrow include Fred & Mary Mayhew, Frank & Florrie Shaw, Iris Fletcher, Peter Pictor and then wife Rosemary.



Blaxhall Fete 2021

By early afternoon (below), under broken cloud, the crowd was already starting to grow around the stalls, and by opening time was easily as large as any attendance in recent years, but come 3pm the skies were largely blue and that crowd swelled even further. Likewise, in the village hall,



the queue for tea and cake stretched out through the door for pretty much the entire afternoon. While there, many of the visitors took the opportunity to enjoy the archive display at the rear of hall, put together by members of the Blaxhall Archive Group.

Back on the playing field, amidst the classic cars and games, the stalls and sideshows were doing fantastic business, with the vast majority of attractions raising more money than when the Fete was last

held in 2019. To name just a few, the Draw made some £680, the Cheese Tombola £685, and the Bottle Stall £581, while the Teas brought in £610, which together with all the other excellent results enabled the grand total raised to hit £3,845.95. Fingers crossed this a sign of things to come and Blaxhall is back in business!



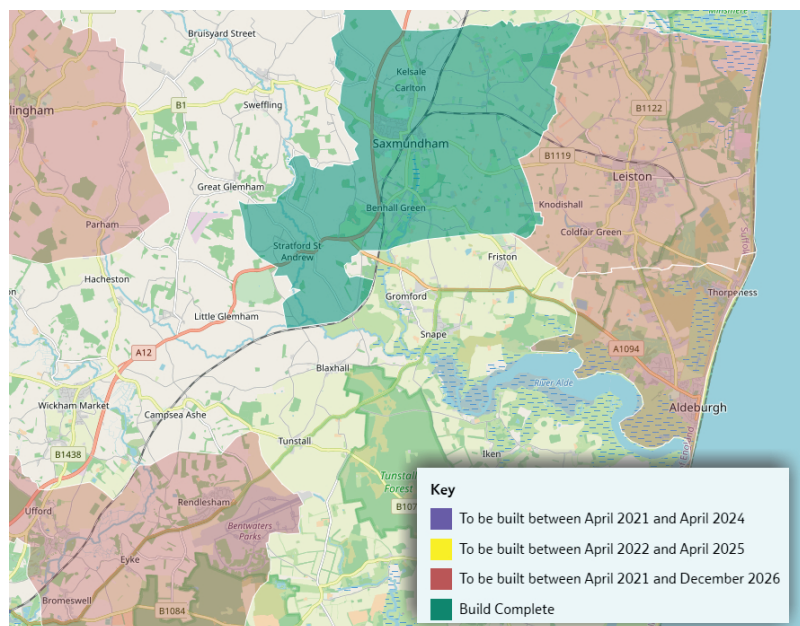
Wildlife Walk

This year's Harvest Festival, on Sunday the 3rd of October, will be preceded by a wildlife walk in the churchyard. Starting at 2pm, the walk will include lots of information on the many species of plant, insect and even mammal that live around the church, some of them being quite rare! Given the time of year, one of the things on view should be a healthy crop of conkers, which was once a truly exciting sight for those of us old enough to remember the days of skewers, string and pitched battles in the playground.



Broadband News?

For a week or so back in June, part of Rectory Road was closed off for a number of days, for reasons that were not immediately obvious. One of our inquisitive villagers managed to



befriend a worker, however, and coaxed out a bit of information. He was told that the work was being carried out by Openreach, and optical fibre cables were being buried all the way up the road to Stone Common, which at an unknown future date would enable connection for the houses there. Whilst I love the idea of a full fibre connection, I can't quite get past the fact that Openreach's Superfast roll-out map doesn't even show Blaxhall as being in the next 5 year's plans, so I'm not about to start counting chickens. Ultimately, they were obviously burying *something*, though, and the worker had no reason to tell porkies, so


maybe, just maybe, we will all be enjoying blazing broadband in the not-too-distant future.

The Return of an Old Friend

Those paying particular attention may have noticed that the Blaxhall.com website dropped offline recently, after a technical hitch caused it to be unavailable for the last decade or so. We are pleased to announce that it's now back, however, and whilst feeling a little groggy, it will be regaining full fitness over the coming weeks until properly back up to pace.

It's hoped, over time, to not only have all areas of the website brought fully back up to date, but also to make it easier to submit news items, events, etc.

Meanwhile, several areas are already available and refreshed, so it's well worth paying a visit.



Welcome

Thursday 2nd September, 2021

Please accept our apologies for the small technical hitch that led to the website being temporarily inaccessible over the last 11 years. Blaxhall.com is all about the small village of Blaxhall in Suffolk. [more...](#)

Please use the navigation panel to the left to browse through the site.

News & Events

Location

Environment

Photographs

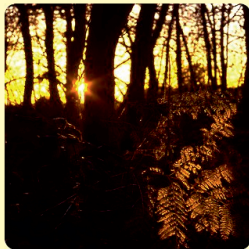
History

Church

Links

Archive

Guestbook



Fern lit by the Autumn sunset

RECENT NEWS ITEMS

[Check back soon..](#)

SPECIAL INTEREST

[Songs from The Ship](#)

[Places to Stay](#)

[Parish plan information](#)

[Contact us with any local news.](#)

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Parish Councillors

Graham Bowles	01728 688192 (Chairman)	Karen Baker	01728 688200
Shane Pictor	01728 688205	Ray Herring	01728 746337
Jonathan Cutting	01728 688003	Mark Oakley	01728 687507
Joanne Peters	01394 459400 (Parish Clerk)	Maggie Jennings	01728 687689

Suffolk Coastal District Councillor - Ray Herring 07885 249218

ray.herring@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Suffolk County Councillor - Andrew Reid 07545 423799 andrew.reid@suffolk.gov.uk

Copies of minutes and agendas can be found at <http://blaxhall.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/>

Parish Council meetings are held in the Village Hall at 7.30 and are open to all parishioners, the public and press. The 2021 dates are: **Wednesday 6th January, Wednesday 3rd March, Wednesday 5th May, Wednesday 7th July, Wednesday 1st September and Wednesday 3rd November.**

Community Transport – “Connecting Communities” **01728 635938** The service booking line operates 08.45am to 4pm, Mon-Fri

Blaxhall Commons & Open Spaces Charitable Trust – www.blaxhallcommonstrust.org
For contact details of all trustees ring Mark Oakley 01728 687507

The **Mobile Library** comes to Blaxhall, and stops at **The Youth Hostel 9.35 – 10am** calling every 4 weeks on Wednesdays: the remaining 2021 dates are **September, 20 October, 17 November, 15 December**

Large print, Audio & Childrens' books, also CDs and DVDs are available for a small charge. Contact Pete Wells or Helen Hudson on help@suffolklibraries.co.uk, visit the website <http://suffolkreads.onesuffolk.net/libraries-and-mobiles/> or phone **01473 584563**

To put something in the Village Noticeboard, please ring Graham Bowles 01728 688192
To put something in the Newsletter email to shane@blaxhall.com tel. 01728 688205

Allotment information contact Sophie Martin on 07724 356916,
Blaxhall.Allotments@gmail.com

Deadline for next Newsletter - 15th November